

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 39

By Cohen

A RESOLUTION relative to asbestos and asbestos awareness.

WHEREAS, the United States imports more than 30 million pounds of asbestos for use in a myriad of products each year; and

WHEREAS, asbestos fibers are invisible and carry neither scent nor taste, but airborne fibers cause permanent and irreparable damage when inhaled or ingested; and

WHEREAS, these fibers are known to cause a number of diseases, including mesothelioma, asbestosis, lung cancer, and several pleural diseases. Mesothelioma is particularly dangerous; the life expectancy of those diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months; and

WHEREAS, asbestos-related diseases are responsible for 10,000 deaths in the United States each year; asbestos-related death rates have risen dramatically over the past 20 years and are expected to continue rising; and

WHEREAS, asbestos-related diseases are particularly high among those in the manufacturing and construction industries, including shipyard workers, vehicle body builders, pipe fitters, carpenters, and electricians; in totality, asbestos poses a danger to 1.3 million workers across these United States; and

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2003, talented musician Warren Zevon succumbed due to complications from mesothelioma; his son Jordon is now the national spokesperson for the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, an organization founded by asbestos victims and their families that seeks to bring attention to the need for asbestos legislation and education; and

WHEREAS, with asbestos-related diseases on the rise in this country, it is of great importance that strides be made which will save the lives of countless Americans in the future; and

WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance to this Body that public awareness of the dangers of asbestos be raised and that legislation be enacted which protects the American public from exposure to this deadly material; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby urges the United States Congress to enact legislation banning the import, manufacture, processing, or distribution of products containing asbestos in the United States and further urges each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation to support such legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Body designates September 7, 2005, as "Asbestos Awareness Day" in Tennessee in an effort to improve and increase public knowledge and understanding of the dangers associated with, and diseases caused by, asbestos.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Body encourages the creation of a public awareness program focused on the dangers of asbestos by and within Tennessee state government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that enrolled copies of this resolution be sent by the Chief Clerk of the Senate to the members of the Tennessee delegation to the Congress of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the Senate is directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., and the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, Washington, D.C.